



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and  
Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Members  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Environment, Great Lakes,  
and Energy Members  
Chris Harkins, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency  
David Massaron, Director, State Budget Office

FROM: Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director 

DATE: June 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Report on Watershed Council Grant Program

In accordance with Section 1013 of Article 4, Part 2, of 2020 PA 166, attached is the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) report on the Watershed Council Grant Program for fiscal year 2021.

If you need further information, please contact Robert Day, Supervisor, Nonpoint Source Unit, Surface Water Assessment Section, Water Resources Division, at 517-512-3903; or you may contact me at 517-242-7407.

Attachment

cc/att: George W. Cook, III, Legislative Affairs Director, Governor's Office  
Ben Dawson, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Austin Scott, House Fiscal Agency  
Jacques McNeely, State Budget Office  
Rachel Eldridge, State Budget Office  
Liesl Eichler Clark, Director, EGLE  
Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE  
Travis Boeskool, Legislative Liaison, EGLE  
Paul McDonald, EGLE  
Dale Shaw, EGLE  
Teresa Seidel, EGLE  
Robert Day, EGLE



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

## Legislative Report

# WATERSHED COUNCIL GRANT PROGRAM

Report Period:  
Fiscal Year 2021

Authority:  
Section 1013 of Article 4, Part 2, of 2020 PA 166

Six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) for a Watershed Council Grant Program was included in an appropriation for the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in 2020 PA 166 that was signed into law on September 30, 2020. Between October 1 and December 31, 2020, staff from the Nonpoint Source Program in EGLE's Water Resources Division (WRD) completed the following activities in support of the Watershed Council Grant Program:

- Determined the legal definition of "Watershed Council" (see Local River Management Act, 1964 PA 253, recodified as Part 311, Local River Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended).
- Developed a process and schedule for a new Watershed Council Grant Program.
- November 19, 2020, prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP), forms, and instructions.
- December 7, 2020, RFP approved by EGLE management.
- December 17, 2020, developed a new boilerplate for use as part of Watershed Council Grant Program contracts.
- December 17, 2020, scheduled a webinar for the Watershed Council Grant Program using the "GoToMeeting" platform.
- December 17, 2020, released notices of the new program including funding amounts, eligible applicants, funding priorities, and the release date of the RFP, as well as a registration link for an informational webinar scheduled for January 12, 2021. Notices were sent via email to past applicants for funding through the WRD's grant programs, posted to three listservs (Michigan Association of Conservation District's "319," Sierra Club's "Enviro-Mich," and Great Lakes Commission's "Mich-Rap"), and distributed via EGLE's GovDelivery (Nonpoint Source list, General Grant list, and Environmental Justice list).
- The RFP was released as scheduled on January 6, 2021, and notices were sent to the above groups.
- An informational webinar was held on January 12, 2021, to explain the fiscal year 2021 Watershed Council Grant Program funding. The WRD's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program staff explained this new state-funded program to support watershed councils and other organizations that work to protect or enhance water quality. NPS Program staff discussed eligible applicants, the grant application schedule, program priorities, eligibility criteria, application requirements, tips for successful applications, and also answered questions. The webinar was viewed live by 197 individuals and was recorded and posted online for those that could not attend the live event.
- The department received 69 applications totaling \$2,385,610.36 in 2021. The applications were reviewed and ranked based on the evaluation criteria and funding priorities listed on page 3 of the RFP, as well as how well the proposals fit EGLE priorities.
- The recipients below will be receiving funding and have until September 15, 2021, to sign a contract with EGLE and will complete grant-funded work within one year.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Amount</b>
River Raisin Watershed Council	Adrian	\$39,984
Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District	Sault Sainte Marie	\$40,000
Isabella Conservation District	Mt. Pleasant	\$30,995
Great Lakes Water Authority	Detroit	\$40,000
Muskegon River Watershed Assembly	Big Rapids	\$40,000
Village of Onekama	Onekama	\$40,000
Calvin University	Grand Rapids	\$40,000
Friends of the Rouge	Plymouth	\$39,808
Clinton River Watershed Council	Rochester Hills	\$32,420
Genesee Conservation district	Flint	\$31,500
Flint River Watershed Coalition	Flint	\$21,150
Washtenaw County Water Resources	Ann Arbor	\$40,000
Two Rivers Coalition	Paw Paw	\$17,360
Huron Pines RC&D Council	Gaylord	\$40,000
Superior Watershed Partnership	Marquette	\$37,231
Little Traverse Lake Property Owner's Association	Cedar	\$14,602
Kalamazoo River Watershed Council	Kalamazoo	\$15,000
Macatawa Area Coordinating Council	Holland	\$39,950